Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 9180

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ID

SUBJ: INDONESIA AND WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE

REF: JAKARTA 8100

- 1. ACCORDING LIM BIAN KIE (GOLKAR OFFICIAL AND AIDE TO PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ALI MURTOPO) IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BERLIN (NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST RATHER THAN JULY AS NOTED IN REFTEL) WILL ASK THAT WCC HOLD 1975 CONFERENCE IN CANADA RATHER THAN INDONESIA.
- 2. LIM SAID BAKIN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK PERSUADING INDONESIAN PROTESTANT LEADERS THAT WCC CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA WOULD BE AGAINST THEIR AND NATIONAL INTEREST. THEY HAVE CITED POSSIBLEMOSLEM TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE, CRITICISM FROM MOSLEM STATES ABROAD, AND PRESSURE FOR SOME MOSLEM CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA WHICH WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BALANCE WCC CONFERENCE. LIM SAID MAIN PROTESTANT

LEADERS, INCLUDING GENERAL SIMATUPANG, HAVE NOW AGREED CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN INDONESIA AND ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF EXPLAINING THEIR DECISION TO LOWER LEVELS.

3. LIM COMMENTED THAT GOI'S DETERMINATION TO PERSUADE PROTEUEANTS SEEK ALTERNATE SITE FOR WCC CONFERENCE WAS REINFORCED BY REALIZATION CONFERENCE COULD EMBARRASS GOI ON OUESTION OF RECENT POLITICAL DETAINEES AND PERHAPS POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM POST-1965 ERA. LIM SAID WCC HAD SENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO SEEKING ASSURANCE THAT CONFERENCE PWSTICIPANTS WOULD BE ABLE MEET AND SPEAK IN COMPLETE FREEDOM. (LIM SAID SUHARTO REPLY STATED HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HAVING CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA BUT HE COULD NOT CONSIDER HAVE "ANY CONDITIONS" LAID DOWN BY WCC.) IN ADDITION, LETTERS FROM OTHER DELEGATES (AUSTRALIAN AND DUTCH) IMPLIED THEY WOULD WANT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SOME OF POLITICAL DETAINEES, PARTICULARLY YAP THIAN HIEN WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOW IN LIBERAL PROTESTANT CIRCLES.

4. GIVEN SUHARTO'S PERSONAL AGREEMENT TO
PERMIT CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA, LIM SAID CANCELLATION
MUST COME AS RESULT OF REQUEST FROM INDONESIAN
PROTESTANT LEADERS THEMSELVES; IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN,
LIM SAID, SUCH REQUEST WILL BE MADE AT BERLIN MEETING OF
WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
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